



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING


GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 13, 2020

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents
Public School Academy Directors

FROM: Michael F. Rice, Ph.D., Superintendent of Public Instruction 

SUBJECT: Partnership and Leadership in Unprecedented Times

As I have shared with you in the last month, I want to thank you again for your partnership, leadership, resilience, and commitment to serve our children. Throughout this state of emergency, our work is more important than ever.

I appreciate everyone's efforts to be steady and resilient as we navigate through this pandemic. When the governor initially closed school buildings late the night of March 12, effective at the end of school the following day, we had 12 COVID-19 cases. We now have more than 25,000 cases and more than 1,500 deaths in the state, and the logic of the closure of school buildings and the stay home order has become increasingly apparent to those who may not have well understood it a few weeks ago.

Over the past month, to help you address the subsequent challenges, MDE has continued to share guidance information with you as it becomes available and/or as it is developed.

Last week, we shared with school districts four significant guidance documents created in collaboration with other state agencies, Michigan educators, stakeholders, and major education organizations in the state.

1. Developed in collaboration with the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD), a guidance document was provided to share best practices on school food service safety during the COVID-19 pandemic. [#COVID-19-026 Best Practices for School Food Service Providing Meals During the COVID-19 Outbreak](#)

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2. Developed in collaboration with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), a document was created to help families navigate extended time away from school. There are a number of strategies to use at home to help children settle into time away from school and into new routines, and to reduce worry and anxiety. The strategies are for children with and without disabilities.
[Navigating Extended Time Away From School: Information for Families With Children Receiving Special Education Services](#)
3. A document entitled *Learning at a Distance Guidance* was developed that has the endorsement of every major education association in the state, with representation from each as thought partners or task force members. It was largely written by our regional teachers of the year and state teacher of the year, in partnership with MDE staff. We hope that it serves as a contribution to the education of our young people at this very difficult and complicated moment in our history.
[Guidance for Learning at a Distance](#)
4. The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) Office of Special Education (OSE) created [Guidance for Compliance With the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and the Michigan Administrative Rules for Special Education During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#). This guidance document is designed to assist districts in meeting the IDEA Part B and MARSE requirements in support of Governor Whitmer's [Executive Order 2020-35](#).

All of the guidance documents and communications during this COVID-19 crisis can be found at www.michigan.gov/mde, with updates and new guidance shared daily. Please click on the "[COVID-19 Updates](#)" button at the top of the webpage. The guidance is a work in progress given the rapidly changing situation.

Below please find the guidance documents and memoranda organized by content area:

Learning at a Distance

- [MEMO #COVID-19-030 Educating All Learners Alliance](#)
- [MEMO #COVID-19-024 Continuity of Learning and COVID-19 Response Plan \("Plan"\)](#)
[Application Template](#)
- [MEMO #COVID-19-011 Guidance on Transition to Online Learning: Considerations and Technical Readiness](#)
- [MEMO #COVID-19-019 Clarification on Distance Learning for Special Education Students](#)
- [MEMO #COVID-19-018 Free and Low-Cost Resources for Districts](#)
- [MEMO #COVID-19-017 FCC Waives USF Restrictions on Vendor Gifts to Applicants Temporarily](#)
- [MEMO #COVID-19-016 Instructional Time During School Closure](#)
- [State Law and Equitable Access Prompt Michigan Dept. of Education Decision](#) (03-20-2020)

School Nutrition

- [MEMO #COVID-19-026 Best Practices for School Food Service Providing Meals During the COVID-19 Outbreak](#)
- [MEMO #COVID-19-005 Feeding Children During School Closures](#)
- [MDE to Request Federal Waiver for Child Nutrition Programs](#) (03-25-2020)
- [Food Service to Children Continues Through the "Stay Home" Order](#) (03-25-2020)
- [MDE to Request Federal Waivers for Child Nutrition, Emergency Food Assistance & Commodity Supplemental Food Programs](#) (03-17-2020)
- [Map Available to Find Meals for Children During School Closure](#) (03-17-2020)
- [School Nutrition Programs Bulletin - Advance Payments Available](#) (03-16-2020)
- [\(Webinar\) Feeding Children During an Unanticipated School Closure](#) (03-13-2020)
- [MDE Granted Federal Waiver for Meals to be Served During Closure](#) (03-13-2020)
- [School Nutrition Programs \(SNP\) Bulletin](#) (03-13-2020)
- [MDE to Request Federal Waiver for Summer Food Service Program](#) (03-12-2020)

Social Emotional Learning and Mental Health

- [Educator's Guide to Supporting the Social and Emotional Needs of Students](#) (04-08-20)
- [MEMO #COVID-19-023 Social-Emotional Supports in a Crisis](#)
- [MEMO #COVID-19-014 Guidance and Considerations for 31n/C4S Mental Health Providers](#)
- [Social-Emotional Learning Resources](#) (03-30-2020)

Career and Technical Education and Post Secondary Options

- [MEMO #COVID-19-022 Career and Technical Education Requirements During COVID-19 Closure Memo](#)
- [MEMO #COVID-19-007 EMC Requirements During COVID-19 Closure](#)
- [MEMO #COVID-19-006 CTE Requirements During COVID-19 Closure](#)
- [Career and Technical Education Frequently Asked Questions COVID-19](#) (03-30-2020)

Special Education

- [MEMO #COVID-19-033 Guidance for Compliance with IDEA and the MARSE During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
- [MEMO #COVID-19-001 Compliance Requirements of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act \(IDEA\) and Michigan Administrative Rules for Special Education \(MARSE\) during a Public Health Emergency](#)

Federal and State Funding

- [MEMO #COVID-19-034 Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund](#)
- [MEMO #COVID-19-032 Public Comment Period on Approved Waivers for Title Funds During the 2020 COVID-19 Crisis](#)
- [MEMO #COVID-19-031 Answers to Commonly Asked Questions on Section 31a and Section 41 Funds During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
- [MEMO #COVID-19-029 2019-2020 FIRST \(VEX\) Robotics Grant Requirement Waiver](#)
- [MEMO #COVID-19-021 Flexibility in Title Funds for Technology](#)
- [MEMO #COVID-19-012 Use of Federal Title Funds During Mandated COVID-19 Closure](#)

Great Start Readiness Program

- [MEMO #COVID-19-010 Compliance Requirements for Great Start Collaboratives and Parent Coalitions funded programs and services during a Public Health Emergency](#)
- [MEMO #COVID-19-002 GSRP Requirements During COVID-19 Closures](#)

Early On

- [MEMO #COVID-19-020 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act \(IDEA\) Part C \(Early On\) during K-12 School Closure due to Executive Orders 2020-11 and 2020-21 \(COVID-19\)](#)
- [MEMO #COVID-19-003 Compliance Requirements of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act \(IDEA\) Part C during a Public Health Emergency](#)

Head Start

- [MEMO #COVID-19-009 Head Start Agency Requirements During COVID-19 Closures](#)

Child Care

- [MEMO #COVID-19-015 Guidance and Considerations for Child Care within Classrooms for Children Ages 6 weeks through 5 years During the COVID-19 State of Emergency](#)
- [UPDATED Guidance for Child Care Providers During the COVID-19 State Emergency, including Updates for Current CDC Subsidy Providers \(03-30-2020\)](#)
- [Child Development and Care \(CDC\) Guidance for COVID-19 State Emergency for Current CDC Subsidy Providers \(03-19-20\)](#)

Educators and Student Teaching

- [MEMO #COVID-19-028 Waiver of School Counselor Professional Learning in Response to Executive Order 2020-35](#)
- [MEMO #COVID-19-027 Waiver of Required District Professional Learning and Professional Learning Hours Required for Certificate Renewal and Progression in Response to Executive Order 2020-35](#)
- [MEMO #COVID-19-025 Emergency Provisions for Special Education Student Teaching and Practicum Requirements](#)
- [MEMO #COVID-19-013 Guidance Provided to Our Educator Preparation Providers](#)

Assessments

- [MEMO #COVID-19-004 Update on Student Assessment and COVID-19](#)
- [Michigan Department of Education Receives Federal Waivers](#) (03-23-2020)
- [USED Federal Assessment Waiver Request](#) (03-23-2020)
- [State Education Leaders Urge National Waiver of State Assessments](#) (03-17-2020)

Other MDE Communications

- [MEMO #COVID-19-008 21st Century Community Learning Centers \(CCLC\) Requirements During COVID-19 Closures](#)
- [Memo from State Superintendent Dr. Michael Rice to local education leaders.](#) (03-18-2020)
- [COVID-19 Anticipated Communication](#) (03-12-2020)
- [COVID-19 Guidance](#) (03-11-2020)

Thank you again for your partnership and leadership during this extraordinarily challenging time.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance